DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN NORTH-EAST

3092. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a twelfth century temple complex with predominantly saivite sculpture 35 kilometres from Guwahati holds tremendous scope for tourism as the area is also rich in wild life; and

(b) if so, what are the details of steps that Government have taken or propose to take to develop an ecologically sound infrastructure for tourism in this area as well as in other areas of the North East ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of ecologically sound infrastructure for tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Department of Tourism have extended financial assistance to the States of North East including Assam for setting up touristic facilities connected with wild life and other environmental aspects.

DECISION TO SELL BOEING 737 PLANES

3093. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has decided to sell 8 out of its 26 Boeing 737s ;

(b) the number of the total fleet of Vayudoot which are now operational ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to sell at the Avros and Dorniers of the Vayudoot ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Indian Airlines has invited offers from parties interested in buying or dry-leasing Boeing 737 aircraft from the airlines.

(b) At present 1 Avro and 2 Dornier aircraft of Vayudoot are operational.

(c) There is no proposal to sell the Avro and Dorniers of Vayudoot at present.

DUES AGAINST PRIVATE SECTOR AIRLINES

3094. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of dues, recovered from and outstanding against different private sector airlines, separately as on 30th November, 1993 towards use of hangers landing and take off facilities at airports and use of other infrastructure maintained by Airport Authorities and other Government departments; and

(b) what is the regulation and control exercised by Government and different public undertakings and corporations over the private sector airlines, including that in respect of maintenance of aircraft ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) The Air Taxi operators are issued permits by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) subject to the condition that they will abide by the guidelines for Air Taxi operations issued by the Government.

As regards maintenance of aircraft of private airlines, preventive maintenance schedules are prepared based on manufacturer's recommendations and the same are approved by the DGCA. Maintenance activities of private airlines are under surveillance by the DGCA to ensure compliance of airworthiness standards.

PRIVATION OF CATERING SERVICE BY AIR INDIA

3095. SHRI RAMDEO BHANDARI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :